

# IBACOS®

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Mr. P. Marc LaFrance  
Technology Development Manager  
United States Department of Energy, Office of Building Technology  
1J-018, EE-2J  
1000 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-0121

Dear Mr. LaFrance,

IBACOS Inc. is a Home Performance and Quality consulting company and a Lead of one of the Building America teams. We work with many of the major builders in the US including four of the top ten. Energy efficiency is becoming a key strategy in delivering homes that meet comfort and budget expectations of the home owners. Builders building to Energy Star levels and builders exceeding Energy Star levels and building in the 50% whole house energy savings and even approaching Zero Energy, must apply all cost effective measures to achieve high performance homes, appropriate to the market.

We are strongly supportive of a program to create cost effective windows in the range of R-5, SHGC performance between 0.25 and 0.5, with a visible light transmission in excess of 0.48 for all cases. These windows must integrate into the weather resistive materials and barriers, and provide good air tightness both through the sash and frame interface as well as around the perimeter.

Cost competitive windows with these specifications would rapidly change the market and provide one more key to transforming the residential construction market to support the currently proposed energy efficiency goals. Without these higher performance windows, it is unlikely that builders could cost effectively meet the targets.

This program also calls for the availability of a Low-E storm window. We also support this effort. With over 100 Million existing homes, it may be even a higher priority to find adaptive strategies that can solve unacceptable performance issues with existing windows. Most weatherization programs do not provide a budget capable of replacing windows; therefore most efforts are bypassed through high heat gain/loss and very high infiltration. A system of storm window retrofit that could control heat gain and loss and reduce Solar Heat Gain, cost effectively, could greatly increase the effectiveness of weatherization programs, increasing the comfort and ability to manage a home heating budget.

We eagerly anticipate the results of this purchasing program.



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